

Appendix 1. Variables included in the survey conducted by La Princesa University Hospital Healthcare Ethics Committee (2021 version)

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- Do you identify as: Male / Female / Other
- How old are you?
- What is your profession at La Princesa University Hospital?
 - Medicine (regardless of category)
 - Resident physician
 - Social work
 - Nursing staff
 - Physical therapy
 - Nursing technician/assistant
 - Not care-related
 - Administrative staff
 - Other staff (specify).....

2. ABOUT THE HEC

- Did you know that the La Princesa Univ. Hospital has a **Healthcare Ethics Committee (HEC)**?
 - Yes
 - No
- What do you think is the function of the HEC? (*You may mark more than one*)
 - Advisory and guidance
 - Education
 - Sanctioning authority
- Have you ever used the HEC?
 - Yes
 - No, but I've thought about it
 - No, I've never considered it
- If you answered no, what factors do you think influenced you? (*You may select more than one answer*)
 - I haven't needed it
 - Lack of knowledge about the process
 - I couldn't wait for the deliberation/resolution to make a decision
 - I wasn't sure whether the issue was truly an ethical conflict
 - Involvement of other professionals
 - I was not responsible for the case
- If you answered yes, did you find it useful?
 - Yes
 - No

- Did you know that the HEC has offered a **Clinical Ethics Consultation (CEC) service** at La Princesa Univ. Hospital since last year?
 - o Yes
 - o No
- What do you think is the function of the CEC?
 - o Advisory and guidance
 - o Education
 - o Sanctioning authority
- Have you ever used the CEC service?
 - o Yes
 - o No, but I've thought about it
 - o No, I've never considered it
- If you answered no, what factors do you think influenced you? (*You may select more than one answer*)
 - o I haven't needed it
 - o Lack of knowledge about the process
 - o I couldn't wait for the deliberation/resolution to make a decision
 - o I wasn't sure whether the issue was truly an ethical conflict
 - o Involvement of other professionals
 - o I was not responsible for the case
- If you answered yes, did you find the cross-consultation useful?
 - o Yes, to resolve the case
 - o Yes, to increase my knowledge about a specific ethical issue
 - o Yes, to learn how to approach an ethical issue in a structured manner
 - o No, it was not useful
- Would you request another cross-consultation with the CEC for future ethical conflicts?
 - o Yes
 - o No
- Do you think a cross-consultation service like the CEC should be available 24/7 (24 hours a day, every day of the week)?
 - o Yes
 - o No
- What other aspects of the clinical ethics cross-consultation process would you like to improve? (*Open response*)

3. ABOUT HEALTH CARE ETHICS PROBLEMS:

- Do you face ethical issues during your daily practice?
 - o Frequently
 - o Occasionally
 - o Never

- If you answered yes, what are those problems regarding? (*You may select more than one answer*)
 - Limitation of therapeutic effort
 - Patient communication
 - Communication with family members
 - Communication with other professionals
 - Confidentiality – privacy
 - Treatment refusal
 - Difficulty interpreting advance directives
 - Problems related to the informed consent process
 - Competition during decision-making
 - Difficulty making decisions with family members/representatives
 - Difficulty identifying values/preferences that are most important to the patient
 - Decision-making in situations with limited resources
 - Problems related to mechanical restraints
 - Patients without representation

- If you haven't requested formal consultation from the CEC service, how did you resolve the conflict?
 - I have sufficient criteria
 - Consultation with other colleagues
 - As best I could

- Do you think your perception about potential ethical conflicts has changed over the course of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - Yes
 - No

- If you answered yes, how so?
 - I am more aware of ethical issues in my daily practice
 - I have gained awareness about the need to request assistance for resolving ethical issues
 - I have realised I need to improve my own specific training in clinical ethics
 - I have expanded my training in clinical ethics
 - Other

- Which of the following ethical issues do you think were particularly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic (if you have dealt with them)? (*You may select more than one answer*)
 - Limitation of therapeutic effort
 - Patient communication
 - Communication with family members
 - Communication with other professionals
 - Confidentiality – privacy
 - Treatment refusal
 - Difficulty interpreting advance directives
 - Problems related to the informed consent process

- Competition during decision-making
- Difficulty making decisions with family members/representatives
- Difficulty identifying values/preferences that are most important to the patient
- Decision-making in situations with limited resources
- Problems related to mechanical restraints
- Patients without representation

4. REGARDING BIOETHICS TRAINING:

- As of now, how would you define your bioethics knowledge and abilities?
 - Extensive
 - Sufficient for my daily practice
 - Scarce
- Do you think that bioethics training is:
 - Essential
 - Necessary
 - Useful
 - Not necessary
- Of the following statements, which do you think best describes your relationship with bioethics? (*List according to relevance, from 1 [most relevant] to 4 [least relevant]*)
 - It offers or provides me with a useful work methodology for addressing ethical issues in health care practice.
 - It can help me navigate or avoid legal problems related to clinical decisions.
 - Its mission is to protect patients and their family members from potential mistakes by the National Healthcare System.
 - It is an important discipline with dedicated health professionals who help resolve troublesome issues in the health care setting.
- Are you interested in improving your training in bioethics? (*List according to relevance, from 1 [most relevant] to 4 [least relevant]*)
 - Yes, and I would be willing to find time to dedicate to training courses or programs.
 - Yes, however it isn't one of my priorities at this time.
 - No, I think there is plenty to do and learn on other topics first.
 - I'd never given any thought to this question.

5. PLEASE WRITE DOWN ANY SUGGESTIONS OR PROPOSALS:

- In my specialisation, area of work, team or unit, I think it is urgent/necessary to address the following issues from an ethical point of view: (*Open response*)
- I think the relationship between hospital professionals and the HEC could be improved by ... (*Open response*)